

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 28, 2022

Honorable David Price, Chair
Subcommittee on Transportation and
and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing
Housing and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
404 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

I am requesting funding for the Propel Center in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Ed Farm, located at 675 Ponce deLeon Ave, Suite NE 223, Atlanta, GA 30308. The project location is at 635 Atlanta Student Movement Blvd., Atlanta, GA 30314.

Talent is everywhere, but opportunities are not. Given their demonstrated accomplishments and promise, HBCUs need a global epicenter of learning that appreciates their culture, applauds their creativity, embraces their collaboration, and supports their success. The requested project funding will provide capital funding for the Propel Center headquarters building construction process.

Propel offers education now designed to prepare future Black leaders for tomorrow's innovation economy. Propel will provide students from all 101 HBCUs access to a virtual curriculum, from sectors including healthcare, technology, advanced manufacturing, agtech, entrepreneurship, and financial services. For the State of Georgia, in collaboration with all the GA HBCUs, Propel will serve as a global Innovation Hub and an epicenter of learning that leverages technology for creative and dynamic problem solving. Once students transition to college, trade school, or other postsecondary training, they will have access to the suite of programs and services offered at the Propel Center, including technology and innovation courses, internships in in-demand fields, and career fellowships. Advancing the construction of the Propel Center's headquarters will support that work.

The project is a good use of taxpayer funds because the Propel Center will serve as a catalytic epicenter of learning that leverages technology for creative and dynamic problem solving and provides HBCU students with the knowledge, skills, tools and resources necessary to transform Georgia's and ultimately the nation's talent pipeline and workforce.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nikema Williams', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress